

# Romans 11:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

## Analysis

Paul erupts in doxology: **O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!** (ὁ bathos ploutou kai sophias kai gnōseōs theou, ὦ βάθους πλούτου καὶ σοφίας καὶ γνώσεως θεοῦ). The word bathos (βάθος, "depth") conveys unfathomable profundity. God's riches (ploutos, πλοῦτος), wisdom (sophia, σοφία), and knowledge (gnōsis, γνώσις) are beyond human comprehension. Paul responds to his own argument: God's plan to save Jew and Gentile through mutual mercy is breathtakingly wise.

**How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!** (hōs anexeraunēta ta krimata autou kai anexichniastoi hai hodoi autou, ὥς ἀνεξεραύνητα τὰ κρίματα αὐτοῦ καὶ ἀνεξιχνίαστοι αἱ ὁδοὶ αὐτοῦ). The word anexeraunēta (ἀνεξεραύνητα, "unsearchable") means beyond investigation; anexichniastoi (ἀνεξιχνίαστοι, "untraceable") means His paths leave no footprints to follow. God's judgments (decisions, decrees) and ways (methods, paths) transcend human reason. This is worship born from theological reflection.

## Historical Context

After three chapters of dense argumentation (Romans 9-11), Paul pauses in awe. He hasn't exhausted the mystery—he's contemplated it and bows in worship. This doxology models the proper response to God's sovereignty: humble adoration, not proud systematizing.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. Why does Paul break into worship after explaining God's plan for Israel and the nations?
2. How does acknowledging the 'unsearchable' nature of God's judgments guard against presumption in theology?
3. What specific aspects of God's plan in Romans 9-11 evoke the greatest wonder in you?

## Interlinear Text

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ὅ  
O  
G5599  
βάθος  
the depth  
G899  
πλούτου  
of the riches  
G4149  
καὶ  
and  
G2532  
σοφίας  
of the wisdom  
G4678  
καὶ  
and  
G2532  
γνώσεως  
knowledge  
G1108  
θεοῦ.  
of God  
G2316

ὥς  
! how  
G5613  
ἀνεξερεύνητα  
unsearchable  
G419  
τὰ  
G3588  
κρίματα  
judgments  
G2917  
αὐτοῦ  
are his  
G846  
καὶ  
and  
G2532  
ἀνεξιχνίαστοι  
past finding out  
G421

αἱ  
G3588  
ὁδοὶ  
ways  
G3598  
αὐτοῦ  
are his  
G846

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 5:9** (Parallel theme): Which doeth great things and unsearchable; marvellous things without number:

**Psalms 92:5** (Parallel theme): O LORD, how great are thy works! and thy thoughts are very deep.

**Romans 2:4** (References God): Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

**Job 37:23** (Judgment): Touching the Almighty, we cannot find him out: he is excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice: he will not afflict.

**Ephesians 3:10** (References God): To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

**Psalms 36:6** (Judgment): Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; thy judgments are a great deep: O LORD, thou preservest man and beast.

**Ephesians 1:7** (Parallel theme): In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

**Ecclesiastes 3:11** (References God): He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

**Colossians 1:27** (References God): To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

**Psalms 97:2** (Judgment): Clouds and darkness are round about him: righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne.